

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended).

A ring filter element for ~~a liquid filter, particularly for~~  
an oil filter for purifying lubricant oil, ~~particularly for an~~  
internal combustion engine of a motor vehicle,

- having an annularly positioned filter material (2),
- having at least one end disk (4), which seals the filter material on its end, and which has a journal (5), which is positioned eccentrically in relation to the lengthwise central axis (3) of the ring filter element (1) and projects outward,

~~characterized by~~ comprising a discharge channel (6), which penetrates the journal (5) and the associated end disk (4) radially next to the filter material (2).  
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wherein the discharge channel (6) communicates with an inner chamber (7) of the ring filter element (1) encircled by filter material (2),

wherein the discharge channel (6) communicates with a clean side of the ring filter element (1), and

wherein a throttle (8) is positioned or implemented at or in an outlet end of the discharge channel (6) or upstream from the discharge channel (6).

Claim 2. (Previously Presented).

The ring filter element according to Claim 1,  
wherein the discharge channel (6) penetrates the journal (5) centrally.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented).

The ring filter element according to Claim 1;  
wherein the discharge channel (6) penetrates the journal (5) axially.

Claims 4 to 6. (Cancelled).

Claim 7. (Currently Amended).

The ring filter element according to ~~Claim 6,~~ Claim 1,  
wherein the discharge channel (6) forms or has a throttle (8).

Claim 8. (Previously Presented).

The ring filter element according to Claim 1,  
wherein the ring filter element (1) is implemented as a  
secondary flow filter.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented).

The ring filter element according to Claim 8,  
wherein the secondary flow filter is connectable at an end  
disk facing away from the journal (5) to a ring filter element  
implemented as a main flow filter in such a way that the  
secondary flow filter and main flow filter are removable from a  
filter housing (17) together.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented).

The ring filter element according to Claim 1, wherein

- the filter material (2) is implemented for filtering a  
secondary flow,
- the ring filter element (1) has a further filter  
material (13), which is positioned annularly and  
coaxially to the lengthwise central axis (3) of the  
ring filter element (1) and axially neighboring the  
secondary flow filter material (2) and is implemented  
for filtering a main flow,

- the secondary flow filter material (2) and main flow filter material (13) have a shared middle disk (14).

Claim 11. (Previously Presented).

The ring filter element according to Claim 8,  
wherein the discharge channel (6) is dimensioned in regard to its flow resistance in such a way that a secondary flow flowing through the secondary flow filter is limited to a predetermined volume flow or to a predetermined proportion of a total flow formed by the secondary flow and a main flow.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented).

The ring filter element according to Claim 1,  
wherein the ring filter element (1) has an inner frame (28) on which the filter material (2) is supported radially.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended).

The ring filter element according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 8,  
wherein

- the ring filter element (1) has a central tube (9),
- an annular chamber (10) is implemented radially between the tube (9) and the filter material (2),
- the discharge channel (6) communicates with the annular chamber (10).

Claim 14. (Previously Presented).

The ring filter element according to Claim 13,  
wherein

- the end disk (4) equipped with the journal (5) has a central opening (12),
- the tube (9) separates a central inner chamber (11), which communicates with the central opening (12), from the annular chamber (10).

Claim 15. (Currently Amended).

The ring filter element according to Claim 13, ~~Claim 10~~,  
wherein

- the tube (9) extends from the end disk (4) equipped with the journal (5) up through the middle disk (14), the middle disk (14) has an internal radial seal (25), which is supported radially on the tube (9) to form a seal.